Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1-5 are being presented as sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The replacement sheets have been amended to add numbers per the written description of the figures in the specification. No new matter is added, removed, or otherwise altered.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-4, 23-24, 31, 36, 59, 68, 73, and 87 are currently being amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found, at least, in the specification, page 3, lines 1-5, page 4, lines 35-39, the claims as originally filed, e.g., claims 1-4, and the figures, e.g., figures 3 and 4. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-95 are now pending in this application.

Examiner Interview Summary

Applicant thanks Examiner Bryan Wright for a helpful interview on April 29, 2009. In the interview, the Examiner and the Applicant discussed claim amendments relating to the three security states and utilization of the sender identifier and recipient identifier to evaluate the three security states. The Examiner and the Applicant further discussed the cited references, Hall, during the interview. No agreement was reached during the interview.
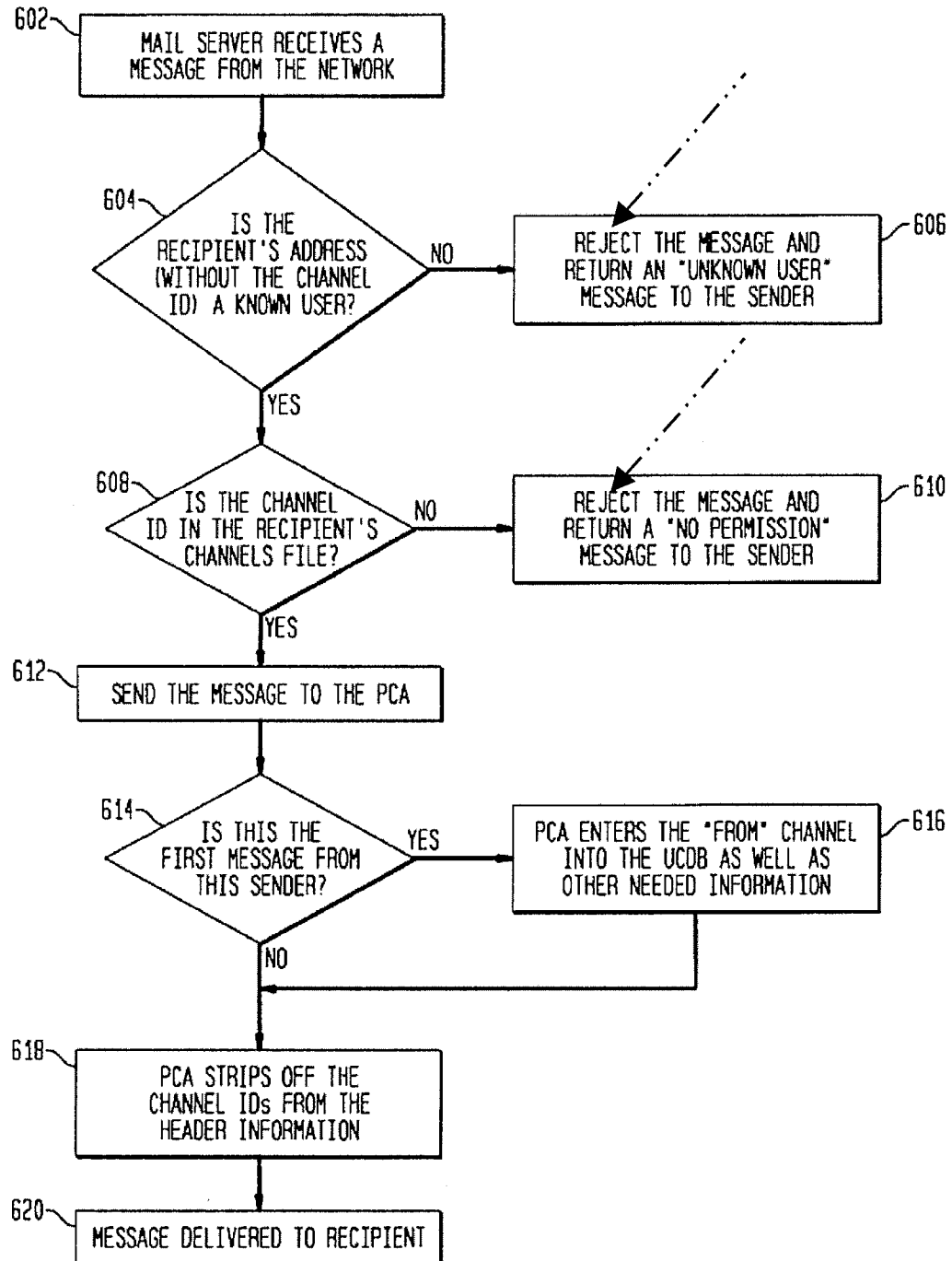
Rejection under 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-95 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hall (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,479). Applicant disagrees with this rejection.

Hall generally describes a method for sending messages from a sender to a recipient using a channelized address. (Hall: col. 3, lines 51-53; col. 5, lines 5-10). Hall describes creating "channels" that senders can utilize to send email to the recipient and each channel has a distinct structured e-mail address that corresponds to the channelized address. (Hall: col. 5, lines 7-16). The channelized address as described in Hall has "a common address portion that indicates an identity of the recipient in the network and a channel identifier portion for verifying that the message is authorized for delivery to the recipient." (Hall: col. 3, lines 53-56).

As illustrated in Figure 6 of Hall below, in step 602, the mail server of Hall receives a message from the network. In step 604, the mail server determines whether the recipient's address (without the channel identifier) is the address of a known user of the system. In step 606, the mail server checks the user's channels file to determine if the channel identifier is in the user's channel file. If the recipient's address is a known user and the channel identifier is in the user's channels file, the message is sent to the personal channel agent (PCA) in step 612. If the recipient's address is not a known user or if the channel identifier is not in the user's channels file, the message is rejected in step 606 or 610, respectively. In step 614, the PCA determines whether this is the first message from the sender. Regardless of whether this is the first message from the sender or not, the PCA strips off the channel identifiers from the message in step 618 and delivers the message to the recipient in step 620. (Hall: col. 12, lines 4-39). In other words, **Hall only rejects the message based on either the recipient's address, in step 604 and 606, or the channel identifier, in step 608 and 610**. As illustrated in Figure 6, Hall does not utilize the sender's address to determine the security state, but simply uses the sender's address to update the user channel database (UCDB) which associates the sender's address with the channel identifier for use in any reply messages to the sender. (Hall: col. 10, lines 25-31).

FIG. 6

602 — MAIL SERVER RECEIVES A MESSAGE FROM THE NETWORK

604 — IS THE RECIPIENT'S ADDRESS (WITHOUT THE CHANNEL ID) A KNOWN USER?

NO → 606 — REJECT THE MESSAGE AND RETURN AN "UNKNOWN USER" MESSAGE TO THE SENDER

YES

608 — IS THE CHANNEL ID IN THE RECIPIENT'S CHANNELS FILE?

NO → 610 — REJECT THE MESSAGE AND RETURN A "NO PERMISSION" MESSAGE TO THE SENDER

YES

612 — SEND THE MESSAGE TO THE PCA

614 — IS THIS THE FIRST MESSAGE FROM THIS SENDER?

YES → 616 — PCA ENTERS THE "FROM" CHANNEL INTO THE UCDB AS WELL AS OTHER NEEDED INFORMATION

NO

618 — PCA STRIPS OFF THE CHANNEL IDs FROM THE HEADER INFORMATION

620 — MESSAGE DELIVERED TO RECIPIENT

That is, Hall describes a static security model where the built-in channel identifier portion of the channelized address indicates the security level of the received message. To change the security level of messages from a sender in Hall, the channelized address must be changed, i.e., each channelized address has a static security state (e.g., send-only channel, public channel, private channel). (Hall: col. 15, lines 1-59; col. 6, lines 52-57). To change the security state of an incoming message in Hall, the channelized address of the incoming message must be changed via a channel switch process and the incoming message must be re-sent utilizing the new channelized address. In other words, in Hall, it is the construction of the channelized address which is a portion of the recipient's address that determines the security state over which the channelized address is used **without regard to the sender's address**.

In contrast, <u>all of Applicant's claims use both the sender's address and the recipient's address to determine the security state</u>. For this reason, there is no proper basis for the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 3, 31, 68, and 82 under 35 U.S.C. 102. Dependent claims 2, 4-30, 32-67, 69-81, and 83-95 depend from allowable base claims and are allowable for the reasons as described above. As such, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2, 4-30, 32-67, 69-81, and 83-95 under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit

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card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date _June 15, 2009_   By _____

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP   Joseph M. Maraia
Customer Number: 48329   Registration No. 55,926
Telephone: (617) 342-4034
Facsimile: (617) 342-4001   Christopher E. Everett
                                        Registration No. 51,659

                                        Attorneys for Applicant